IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled) A method for serving a print by reference operation to print referenced content from a referenced location of a content provider to a print device, the method comprising steps of:

accepting, from a print client, a reference to print content targeted for printing from a content provider location indicated by the reference;

resolving the reference to determine the location indicated by the reference;

obtaining print data from the location indicated by the reference;

transcoding the print data into a print device ready format;

allowing access to print data transcoded by said step of transcoding;

transferring, in response to a request from the print client, print data transcoded by said step of transcoding.

2. (Canceled) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of accepting accepts the reference from an Internet connection to the print client.

3. (Canceled) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reference comprises a universal resource locator address that addresses print content targeted for printing.

4. (Canceled) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of accepting accepts a reference list of individual references that each reference print content stored at a content provider location.

5. (Canceled) The method according to claim 4, wherein said steps of resolving, obtaining, transcoding, and allowing are completed for a first one of said individual references in said reference list before being conducted for another one of said individual references in said reference list.

6.   (Previously Cancelled)

7.   (Amended) A method for serving a print by reference operation to print referenced content from a referenced location [[of a]] to a print device, the method comprising steps of:

accepting, from a print client, a reference to print content targeted for printing from a location indicated by the reference;

resolving the reference to determine the location indicated by the reference;

obtaining print data from the location indicated by the reference;

transcoding the print data into a print device ready format;

allowing access to print data transcoded by said step of transcoding;

transferring, in response to a request from the print client, print data transcoded by said step of transcoding,

initiating a control communication with the print client, wherein said step of initiating a control communication is conducted via an argument resolution protocol and said steps of accepting and transferring are conducted via a data transfer protocol.

8.   (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the argument resolution protocol is the Simple Object Access Protocol and the data transfer protocol is an HTTP protocol.

9.   (Canceled) The method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

accepting a security challenge from the location indicated by the reference; and

responding to the security challenge.

10.   (Canceled) The method according to claim 9, wherein said step of responding comprises passing the security challenge to the print client.

11.   (Canceled) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of allowing comprises:

establishing a universal resource locator address for the print data transcoded by said step of transcoding; and

communicating the universal resource locator address for the print data to the print client.

12.   (Canceled) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of conducting a financial clearance.

13.   (Canceled) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of requiring a billing ID from the print client.

14.   (Amended) A print service realized as a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied in the medium that when executed causes a computer to:

accept a reference from a print client, over a control communication channel using an argument resolution protocol, to print content targeted for printing from a content provider location indicated by the reference;

open a separate data channel for data exchange;

resolve the reference to determine the location indicated by the reference;

obtain the print content from the location indicated by the reference;

transcode the print content into a print device ready format;

allow access to the transcoded print content; and

transfer the transcoded print content to the print client in response to a request from the print client.

15.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 14, wherein the software accepts the reference from a direct connection to the print client.

16.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 14, wherein the software accepts the reference from an Internet connection to the print client.

17.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 14, wherein said software is resident in a web host and the print service is a web site allowing the print service to be reached by the print client via the Internet.

18.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 17, wherein the web site is discoverable by the print client through the Internet.

19.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 18, wherein the web site is pre-configured into print clients to be discoverable when print services are required by the print clients.

20.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 18, wherein the web site is registered into a service registry to be discoverable by print clients.

21.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 18, wherein the web site is discoverable via network discovery protocols.

22.   (Previously Canceled)

23.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 14, wherein the software accepts a reference comprising multiple references to print content targeted at multiple content provider locations for printing.

24.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 23, wherein the multiple references comprise a list of multiple Universal Resource Locators.

25.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 23, wherein each of the multiple references is processed separately followed by sequential processing of remaining references in a list.

26.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 14, wherein the print service, at the time the software accepts a reference, the reference receives a control communication with the print client over a control communication channel and opens a separate data channel for data exchange.

27.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 26, wherein the software receives the control communication via an argument resolution protocol.

28.   (Amended) The print service according to claim 14 [[27]], wherein the argument resolution protocol is the Simple Object Access Protocol.

29.   (Amended) The print service according to claim 14[[27]], wherein the argument resolution protocol is layered on top of an HTTP protocol.

30.   (Amended) The print service according to claim 14[[27]], wherein the software accepts control communications via the argument resolution protocol to:
        create a new print job;
        check status of an existing print job; and
        cancel an existing print job.

31.   (Original) The print service according to claim 30, wherein the software accepts a request to create a new print job from the print client.

32.   (Original) The print service according to claim 31, wherein the software creates a unique job identifier when accepting a request to create a new print job from the print client and communicates the job identifier to the print client for use in further communications concerning the new print job.

33.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 14, wherein the software transcodes into a form that depends on a device type of the print client.

34.   (Canceled) The print service according to claim 14, wherein the software conducts a financial clearance of the print client.

35.   (Canceled) The print client according to claim 14, wherein the software requires a billing ID from the print client.